



## CITY OF SAN DIEGO

### MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** May 21, 2009

**TO:** Honorable Members of the City Council

**FROM:** Council President Ben Hueso  
Councilmember Tony Young  
Councilmember Carl DeMaio

**SUBJECT:** Nomination to the San Diego Port Commission

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We are pleased to nominate Lee Burdick for possible appointment to the Port Commission, and to fill the vacancy resulting from Laurie Black's recent resignation. Ms. Burdick is an extremely qualified candidate with the depth of professional experience required to address the Port's environmental, land use, and tenant challenges, a demonstrated commitment to public service, and a consensus-building personal style.

One of the Unified Port District's strategic goals is to promote the Port's maritime industries to stimulate the regional economy. Ms. Burdick, a regulated-industries specialist and Partner with Higgs, Fletcher & Mack, L.L.P., has spent the majority of her career working on land use and real estate issues. Her relevant legal perspective and direct, practical experience will be as asset to the board as they seek to achieve this objective.

Because our waterfront is such an important environmental asset, the Council needs to appoint a Port Commissioner who is committed to protecting this valuable natural resource. Ms. Burdick's experience gives her an understanding of our shore's diverse use and the nuances of the California Tidelands Trust, including environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Ms. Burdick would be an immediate asset on the Unified Port District Board of Commissioners because she already knows the issues and understands the agency well. She would evaluate issues impartially, provide well-reasoned analysis of the issues, and would work with all stakeholders to achieve the port's goals.

**Cc:** Honorable Mayor Jerry Sanders  
Honorable City Attorney Jan Goldsmith  
City Clerk Liz Maland